

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/18/09 has been entered.

This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 12/18/09.

Claims 9-12, 18-24, 29-30 are pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Mr. Robert H. Reckers, on 01/11/10.

Cancel claims 23, 24

The application has been amended as follows:

1.- 8. (cancelled)

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9. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for presenting related items in a universal data storage device to a user, the method comprising:

accepting a user input representing a selection to view items in the universal data storage device which are related to a selected item;

accessing data in said universal data storage device, wherein said universal data storage device stores a plurality of items in accordance with a universal data schema, and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of items contain relational information which allows relationships between said plurality of items to be determined, wherein said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the universal data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item;

utilizing said relational information to determine a relationship between a selected item and one or more of the items containing said relational information in the data storage device, wherein said relationship has a relationship type; and

displaying said selected item and one or more related items to the user, wherein said displaying includes presenting the displayed items with a shell view schema, wherein said displaying further includes presenting one or more item decorations defined by at least a portion of the displayed items, wherein conflicts between said shell view schema and said one or more item decorations are resolved in favor of said shell view schema such that the selected item and one or more related

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items are displayed using only said shell view schema and without said one or more item decorations defined by the displayed items.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items includes displaying at least a portion of said relational information to a user.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said method further comprises receiving a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items is responsive to said input.

13.- 17 (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A shell for presenting related items in a universal data storage device to a user, the shell comprising:

a data storage device interaction component which retrieves data associated with one or more items from the universal data storage device, wherein said one or more items are stored in accordance with a universal data schema and at least a portion of said one or more items contain relational information that allows relationships between two or more items to be determined;

a related item presentation component which utilizes said retrieved data to present related items to a user, wherein the relationship presentation component is

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configured to present a selected item to a user and is further configured to utilize said relational information to present one or more items in said data storage device which are related to said selected item; and

a shell view component that stores a plurality of shell view schemas that are associated with one or more relationship types, wherein each of at least a portion of said plurality of shell view schemas identifies one or more visual elements selected as appropriate for display with items of one of said one or more relationship types,

wherein said related item presentation component presents said related items with one or more item decorations defined by at least a portion of the related items and with one of said plurality of shell view schemas, wherein conflicts between a shell view schema and said one or more item decorations are resolved in favor of said shell view schema such that the related items are displayed using only said shell view schema and without said one or more item decorations defined by the displayed items;

wherein the shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item, and wherein said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item.

19. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 18, wherein the relational information corresponding to one or more of said plurality of items includes a set of item characteristics.

20. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 19, wherein said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more of said set of item characteristics to a user.

21. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 19, wherein said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said item characteristics.

22. (previously presented) The shell of Claim 18, wherein the related item presentation component is configured to present at least a portion of said relational information.

23 - 28 (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein, when a display element is missing from the shell view schema, displaying a corresponding item decoration for the missing display element.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 further comprising displaying a non-conflicting item decoration in the shell view in addition to the display elements defined by the shell view schema.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Claims 9-12, 18-22, 29-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to an improved shell that is capable of displaying each item within a universal data store, configured to present items within a universal data store in a relationship driven context.

All independent claims 9, 18 recite, or similarly recite, in combination with the remaining elements, *a shell view component that stores a plurality of shell view schemas that are associated with one or more relationship types, wherein each of at least a portion of said plurality of shell view schemas identifies one or more visual elements selected as appropriate for display with items of one of said one or more relationship types, wherein said related item presentation component presents said related items with one or more item decorations defined by at least a portion of the related items and with one of said plurality of shell view schemas, wherein conflicts between a shell view schema and said one or more item decorations are resolved in favor of said shell view schema such that the related items are displayed using only said shell view schema and without said one or more item decorations defined by the displayed items; wherein the shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item, and wherein said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item.*

The closest prior art, Thompson-Rohrlich et al (US 5,504,852), shows a similar method for creating a collection of aliases representing computer system files, in addition, Dusker et al (US 7,293,031) shows a similar method where existing specification objects are selected from a data store. New specification objects are created as shell specification objects. Moreover, computations are selected from the data store. The specification objects, the shell specification objects, and the computations are organized within a grid. The grid is used to generate a template report schema. In another embodiment, a preview tool populates the grid with report data in order to present a preview. However, Thompson-Rohrlich et al, and Dusker et al., singularly or in combination, still fail to anticipate or render the above cited limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James K. Trujillo, can be reached at (571) 272-3677. The fax number to this Art Unit is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Miranda Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2159